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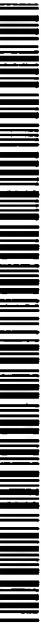
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(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN METAL SALTS

(57) Abstract: Alkali metal carboxylate salt brines, such as cesium formate brine, are used in oil and gas drilling procedures. Contamination with chloride ions can be controlled by treatment with a silver salt solution, and removing silver chloride formed. High density brines can be obtained, suitable for re-use.